

HOUSE RESOLUTION 220

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the legendary musical group, The Bar-Kays, of Memphis for entertaining American troops in Iraq and Kuwait.

WHEREAS, this general assembly takes great pride in paying tribute to those Tennessee musical artists who have set aside their personal concerns and their careers to bring entertainment to American soldiers who are serving their country far from home; and

WHEREAS, one such group of legendary musicians is The Bar-Kays, who have produced some of the funkier soul music ever played by a native Memphis band, an accolade that speaks volumes about both their creative talent and their musicianship; and

WHEREAS, formed in Memphis in 1966, The Bar-Kays have blazed their trail in the musical genre of funk with syncopated beats and a dazzling array of costumes for four successful decades; and

WHEREAS, a former house band for Memphis's Stax Records and the backing band for the legendary Otis Redding at the time of his death, The Bar-Kays have recorded twenty-nine albums and forty singles; their distinctive style and funky dance music have earned the group one platinum album, five gold albums and twenty Top 10 singles and albums; and

WHEREAS, led by original member James Alexander and lead vocalist Larry Dodson, The Bar-Kays performed (from May 27 – June 1, 2008) for American troops serving in Iraq and Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, sharing the stage with the Dazz Band and Con Funk Shun, The Bar-Kays were the third component of this super group, dubbed The Legends of Funk, which boosted the morale of weary American troops serving in the Middle East by performing fantastically funky soul music; and

WHEREAS, after two and one-half months of planning, The Bar-Kays and The Legends of Funk played four shows in Iraq and one show in Kuwait, with 5,000 soldiers attending each show; and

WHEREAS, co-promoted by Larry Dodson's company, Lamarie's Entertainment Complex, The Legends of Funk military extravaganza made the 6,866-mile trip to Iraq with twenty-two people, sound, lights and production equipment in tow; and

WHEREAS, forsaking the comfort and safety of their homes, The Bar-Kays exported their soul-stirring funky dance music to the Middle East to bring a slice of American life to our valiant troops, reflecting great credit upon themselves and the city of Memphis as a whole; and

WHEREAS, there are few musicians who have demonstrated the artistry, adaptability, and resiliency that The Bar-Kays have evidenced during their four decades as a band, and their latest foray into public service should be appropriately recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend our deepest gratitude to The Bar-Kays for donating their time, talent, and resources to bring the joy of music to our soldiers serving in Iraq and Kuwait and honor and recognize these outstanding Memphians for their soulful and funky contributions to popular music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.